

REMARKS

The Office Action made a restriction requirement between 51 groups: groups 1-17 directed to protease variant modified at specified positions, compositions comprising same, and methods of use thereof; groups 18-34 directed to methods of producing said protease variant; and groups 35-51 directed to transgenic plants comprising a polynucleotide encoding said protease variant.

Applicants propose a modified restriction requirement directed to protease variants comprising a substitution at position 47, 54, 92, 122 or 127; compositions comprising same, and methods of use thereof. If this proposal is acceptable to the Examiner, Applicants agree to amend the claims to recite only these positions in the independent claims. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 11, 15, 16, 28-31, and 37 read on this invention.

If Applicants' proposal is not acceptable, Applicants hereby elect the invention of Group 10 directed to protease variants comprising a substitution at a position corresponding to positions 118-131 of the mature protease of SEQ ID NO: 2. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 11, 15, 16, 28-31 and 37 read on the elected invention.

Applicants hereby reserve the right to file divisional applications directed to the nonelected subject matter.

The Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if there are any questions concerning this response or application.

All required fees were charged to Novozymes North America, Inc.'s Deposit Account No. 50-1701 at the time of electronic filing. The USPTO is authorized to charge this Deposit Account should any additional fees be due.

Respectfully submitted,

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